AN
Information to the Publick.

Containing some

Extracted Paſſages

FROM THE

REPORT

OF THE

Committee of SECRECY.

Price Three-pence.

BRITISH MUSEUM

Great Britain. Commons House of

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Out of the

REPORT

FROM THE

Committee of SECRECY.

With a Word or two affix'd, adapted to the preſent Occaſion.

Intended for the Uſe of the Common ſort of People.

In vain they ſtrive who can that Fire conceal,
Which does it ſelf, by its own Light, reveal.

LONDON,
Printed for *J. Roberts* near the *Oxford-Arms* in *Warwick-Lane*.
1715.

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I Always take the Liberty to ſhew a Forwardneſs in promoting any thing tending to the Benefit of my Country, and to demonſtrate upon all Occaſions my Affection to the preſent Conſtitution: And as nothing can contribute more to

to the Tranquillity of our preſent Right-ful Sovereign, than Harmony and good Agreement among his Subjects, ſo I am induc'd to preſent this Mite to my Fellow Countrymen to expoſe to them the heinous Proceedings of the *Late Miniſtry*, that thereby they may no longer with groundleſs and vexatious Murmurings (the General Prelude to Popular Inſurrections) diſturb that Government which never can be deſtroyed, but with a total Deſtruction of all our Liberties, and even the holy Proteſtant Religion. For however the Agents of the Late Miniſtry effected ſo general a Depravation in the Minds of Mankind, whether by ſome Magick Art, or by diſguiſing their Intentions with a pretended Affection for the Church, and ſo religiouſly deluded their Countrymen, I cannot tell, tho' the latter ſeems to me moſt reaſonable; yet now 'tis apparent under their own Hands, (irreſiſtible Conviction!) that all their Actions tended to the Diſhonour and Ruin of this Nation, to the introducing the Pretender, and conſequently

a Religion full of Novelty, Vanity, and Idolatry.

Now let no Man that has been unhappily miſled, think it inconſiſtent with his Reputation to own his Miſfortune; for it is more commendable in any Perſon to retire from a bad Cauſe, than obſtinately to perſiſt; for the wiſeſt Philoſophers, as well as Men in general, are fallible, ſo conſequently ſubject to Error.

In this little Book is contain'd ſome Extracted Paſſages from the REPORT of the *Committee of Secrecy*, which being dear, may perhaps be incommodious to the more ordinary ſort of People to procure: therefore I have penn'd this little Work, adapted to their Capacity, with a Relation of Matters of Fact therein contain'd, referring to the Pages where I found them: And indeed I do think I have not perverted the Real Senſe and Meaning of any Thing in the REPORT, but I ſubmit it to my Reader, who may, by regarding the Number of

the

the Page, retire to the Book it ſelf; one of them will be in the Hands of every Mayor or returning Officer for Parliament, and ſo ſatisfie his Mind that I have not falaciouſly related any thing, and thereby likewiſe detect the late Set of Men who acted ſo complicated a piece of Iniquity as confounds my Imagination to meditate upon.

Pages in the REPORT, *where found.*

Page 1.

Committee of Secrecy, in their REPORT, give an account of the late Negociations of Peace and Commerce, and appeal to the Original Papers for the Verity of the aſſerted Facts: Such diſtinguiſhing Marks are given to every thing therein related, that if any Member of the Houſe of Commons ſhou'd doubt the Impartiality and Fairneſs of the *Committee*, he may turn in a Moment to the Volumes upon

upon the Table, and have ocular Demonſtration from the Original themſelves.

The Committee make appear, that ſeveral very long and important Correſpondence have been ſuppreſs'd; whereby they are obſtructed from tracing out all the ſteps of the late Miniſtry.

The firſt Propoſals of Peace were ſign'd by Monſieur *De Torcy* Secretary to the *French* King, and ſent to *England*, and then they were diſpatch'd by Mr. Secretary *St John* to the *Hague* to my Lord *Raby*, and he was directed to aſſure the States of the Intention of *England*, never to depart from the mutual Agreements of both Nations. *P.* 2. But notwithſtanding thoſe Aſſurances, there it appears that Five Months Negociations were carried on by Lord *Bolingbroke*, (who appears Black in every Page) in violation of the eighth Article of the Grand Alliance; and the States had no knowledge of it till after the Special Preliminaries were ſign'd, and

the ſeven General Preliminaries concluded and ſent to them.

My Lord *Raby* at firſt was not in the Secret, and did adviſe to have every thing fairly and openly tranſacted between *England* and *Holland*; but being converted by Lord *Bolingbroke*, zealouſly ever after concur'd in all his Meaſures.

P. 4, 5,

Relate, that on the 20th of *September* 1711, The
L. Treaſurer,
L. Chamberlain,
L. *Dartmouth*,
Mr. *St. John*,
} met Monſieur *Meſnager* an Envoy from *France*.

And this Meeting was at Mr. *Prior*'s Houſe, to conſult upon the Propoſals of *France*; but without any previous Knowledge or Power from the Queen; and Meetings are carried on from the 11th of *April*, to the 25th of *September*, 1711, when a Warrant was ſign'd

ſign'd by the Queen. Now 'tis apparent that treating with the Enemies of the Crown in time of War, incurs the Penalties of High Treaſon: And this my Lord *Bolingbroke* was conſcious of, having procured the Warrant to be antidated.

P. 13, 14, and 15,

Contain a relation of the Correſpondency between Lord *Bolingbroke* and Monſieur *De Torcy*, upon the great Expedient call'd The Renunciation of King *Philip* to the Crown of *France*, for himſelf and Heirs: And there *De Torcy* Secretary to the King of *France* wiſely and ingenuouſly tells my Lord *Bolingbroke*, That no Form of Renunciation can be Valid, how ſtrongly ſoever contriv'd. nor would it oblige the next Succeſſor, who according to the fundamental Laws of *France*, receives his Crown from God, and is not beholden to the Will of his Predeceſſor; and conſequently no Renunciation can debar or cut of a Right *Jure Divino*, but it will be, and is null and

void by the fundamental Laws of this Country; but notwithſtanding, the Lord *Bolingbroke* inſiſted it ſhould be done artificially to deceive his Countrymen, with a pretended Diſ-union between the two Monarchies, becauſe 'twas upon this ſcore principally the War commenc'd:

From this 'tis certain, as if *Philip* was already poſſeſs'd that upon the Demiſe of the preſent King of *France*, in caſe the Dauphine, who is an Infant, dies, the Crowns of *France* and *Spain* will be united under the Command of both Father and Son, which will threaten all *Europe* with Slavery and Papiſtical Uſurpation.

P. 16 to 18,

Relate the Management of the Duke of *Ormond*; and indeed nothing more is plain againſt his Grace than that he acted very inconſiſtent with his Miſtreſs's Inſtructions; for he was order'd to Correſpond with one of her Secretaries of State, and tranſmit

Accounts

Accounts of his Proceedings, and was commanded to act in Conjunction with the Allies; but he, contrary to those honourable Orders, retires from the Allies and proclaims a Cessation of Arms: And not contented with shewing a Reluctancy to Fight, and an Inveteracy to the Allies, further, upon all occasions, inform'd the Marshal *Villars*, General of the *French* Army, of all Motions made by the Confederate Forces. And in *P.* 25, nothing is more certain than that his Grace concur'd in all Measures, for he even invented Projects to assist *France* and betray his good Friends the Allies. Now had he any Orders from the Queen, no body would have disputed the Validity of his Actions, but his Grace never had.

P. 28,

It appears, that upon Advice of the Earl of *Strafford*, at the Request of Monsieur *De Torcy* Secretary to the King of *France*, *Ghent* and *Bruges* were taken into Possession, in order to distress

diſtreſs the *Dutch*, in open Violation of all the Treaties betwixt us: And as to Lord *Strafford*'s Affection to our preſent King, it will appear pretty plain by reading Page 24 in the Report.

In this Page likewiſe is related that the Lord *Bolingbroke* on the 18th of *April*, O. S. ſent poſitive Orders to the Queen's Admiral not to moleſt the *French* Ships coming from the *Levant*, though the Suſpenſion of Arms was not ſign'd till the 19th of *Auguſt*, N. S.

P. 29.

Gives an Account that the *French* Plenipotentiaries at *Utrecht* would not acknowledge thoſe Conceſſions, which the Queen of *England* in her Speech to her Parliament, Reported, that *France* would make the Allies, to be true.

P. 39.

P. 39.

My Lord *Bolingbroke* seem'd to be a little perplex'd at some Measures of *France*; and knowing how Treasonably his Lordship had acted all along, writes to Mr. *Prior* to expostulate with Monsieur *de Torcy*, and tell him he may get *Harry* and *Robin* hang'd, but then the Cause of France will cease to be Popular in *England*. He refers the *French* Court to compare the Plan for Peace in the Year 1709 with that of 1712, whereby will be demonstrated his Affection to *France*. He there shews himself to have a Preknowledge of his Fate, by intimating he shall come to be a Refugee in *France*.

P. 42 and 43.

My Lord of *Oxford* is found intriguing with one Mr. *Gillingham*, an *Irish* Papist, in promoting the Interest of the Pretender; tho' his Lordship took care to act in so cautious a manner

manner as not to ſuffer any Letters of his Hand to witneſs againſt him; notwithſtanding 'tis very plain, by Anſwer of ſeveral Letters of his to himſelf, that he concurr'd not only in making a diſhonpurable Peace, but in bringing in the Pretender, and was the Original of our preſent Calamities.

P. 44, to 49.

Give an Account of the Meaſures concerted about the unhappy *Catalans*, where Sir *James Wiſheart* is drawn in ſo monſtrous a Figure as will diſtract Mankind to ſurvey. He there appears with a Soul void of Nature and Humanity, untouch'd with the Calamities of that brave unhappy People, whoſe Deſtruction the Treachery of his Countrymen effected. But he, to promote their ſpeedy Fate, and ſhew himſelf an Abettor to their Misfortunes, ſends two Ships of War to convoy a *Spaniſh* Fleet, without any Orders, becauſe the Ships before *Barcelona* ſhould not withdraw from blockading the Town by Sea, and

moreover

moreover ſends a threatning Letter to the Town

In *P.* 50,

Is related two of his Letters to my Lord *Bingley* at *Madrid*, "Deſiring his Lordſhip to let that Court "know that it has always been cuſtomary to let the Admiral of *England* have the Profit of being exempted from paying Duties for ſeveral Things. But leſt, ſays he, in another Letter, this Trifle ſhould prevent any further Demonſtration of King *Philip*'s Affection to him, he would deſiſt from having his Lordſhip importune the Court of *Spain* upon it. — For as his Fleet was intended ſo ſerviceable for *Spain*; and as his Pay would not amount to half the Charges of his Voyage, he inſinuated to have ſome *Spaniſh Gold*; but ſubmitted the Management of this Affair entirely to his Lordſhip's Diſcretion.

The firſt Admiral of *England* that ever begg'd of a Foreign Prince Subſiſtence.

P. 51,

The *Catalans* Letter to Sir *James Wiſheart* is ſet down enough to move the moſt obdurate Heart.

P. 52, and 53,

Make very demonſtrable the Deſign of bringinging in the *Chevalier*: It appears that this Buſineſs was moſtly tranſacted by Verbal Meſſages, by the Abbot *Gaultier*. *Bolingbroke*, and *Prior*, as they are deep in every Page before, ſo here they appear more nearly concerned in managing this Affair. 'Tis plain too that *Oxford* was in the Secret, tho' no Original Letters of his of this Nature are found; yet ſeveral Anſwers to them are found, which are a plain Implication that his Lordſhip was concern'd with it. In one Letter Mr. *Prior* writes to *Oxford*, to expreſs his Concern leſt the

the *Young Man* ſhould fall into the Hands of the *Huſſars* and *Barbarians*; and tells him, the Duke *D'Aumont*, who was late the *French* King's Ambaſſador here, has Orders upon this Affair.

He likewiſe adds, That he receives very often Meſſages from the Dowager, which in *England* is not lawful to receive, and hopes, if any thing can be obtain'd for her, it will be done in ſuch a Manner as will demonſtrate the Charity of the Queen, and the Generoſity of her Lord Treaſurer. Likewiſe he appears very anxious about the Pretender's Safety, as will appear more at large in the REPORT.

P. 55,

Relate a Comical Letter of Lord *Oxford* to 'sthe Queen.

P. 56 to 49,

Relate *Oxford*'s Proceeding in a Letter to the Queen, where he appears

pears Corresponding with Foreign Courts, upon the Presumption of his own Judgment: But I shall not trouble the Reader with more upon this Lord, whose Conduct to our Country's Misfortune is too well known.

'Tis likewise made appear, that all Goods imported into *Spain* in King *Charles* IId's Time paid no more Duties than after the Rate of 7 *l. per Cent. ad valorem*; and now all Goods sent thither pay upward of 27 *l. per Cent.* to the manifest Detriment of our Trade, and Beggary of the Nation in general.

Upon Reading this, may be seen the Heads of Matters contained in the REPORT; which, as it fixeth an eternal Stain upon the Characters of a great many Noblemen, especially ONE, who, with his Services, and former Actions of Generosity, has affected the Minds of Men with an uncommon Attachment to his Person; therefore I shall speak a short Word to endeavour to settle the Notions

tions of reasonable Men, that no Extravagancies of Passions may hurry them to commit things inconsistent with their Interest and Reason, and in defiance of the Laws of their Land. And indeed I think there is nothing a Man ought to be more cautious of, than aspersing the Character of any Person, especially Men who have had the Honour to serve in the Administration of Publick Affairs; for little Mistakes of Ministers ought to be winked at, and with a charitable Connivance attributed to the Toils and Anxieties attendant upon the Execution of their Offices, so long as they desist from committing Things essentially prejudicial either to the Honour of the Crown or Interests of the People; for so soon as they descend to the Commission of such vile Acts, making use of their Power destructive to the Common Good, from that Moment the Deference and Respect before due to them ceases; nor ought the Splendor of their Fortunes, and other dazling Ornaments of Nobility, influence Mankind

kind to skreen them from the Law, and making an Atonement to their injur'd Country. An Atonement, did I say! 'Tis but a pitiful one they can make; for what is the Blood of One Man, in Competition with the Miseries they have entail'd upon a living Generation!

What are Titles? What are the other Out-side Ornaments of Nobility, but Shadows, or very imperfect Similitudes of the Whole? For true Nobility consists in the internal Perfections of the Mind, which dictate and inspire Actions of Generosity, create an inviolable Inherence to the Laws of the Land, and a sincere Regard to the Interest of the Common People.

When Great Men are actuated with such Motives, how just a Regard is due to their Quality? Every Thing but Adoration, and those particular Honours allotted the Regal Power, become their Property. But alas! on the

the contrary, Shame, Ignominy, and Reproach, and all the Miſeries under the Sun, are too light a Suffering for them.

Now no Man, as he is convinc'd what Miſeries were lately falling upon this Nation, by a Combination of Publick Knaves, will never ſuffer himſelf to be cajol'd into a Belief, that Riots and Tumultuary Proceedings will deter the Law from diſtinguiſhing between Good and Bad Men: For what are the Populace againſt a Government, againſt the King, Lords, and Commons? For indeed whenever a wicked Company of Rebels effected any thing againſt the King, 'twas when inteſtine Diviſions defracted the good Harmony between the King and his Parliament: But now, prais'd be God, ſuch a good Underſtanding is between them as will fruſtrate the Endeavours of all the King's Enemies, Enemies conſequently to this Nation and the Proteſtant Religion. For now Tory and Whig, thoſe fooliſh Denominations,

are

are ceas'd, and the Struggle is, whether a Proteſtant King, a Lover of the Church of *England*, ſhould get the better of a Popiſh Impoſtor, and his and the Church of *Rome*'s Emiſſaries.

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